

## ***Agricultural Economic Development Initiative***

# Clay

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### **COUNTY ACTION TEAM MEMBERS**

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## **COUNTY STRATEGIES AND TACTICS**

### **DIVERSIFICATION**

**Develop an agriculture task force housed at the county to address agriculture issues impacting Clay County and act as an advisory board for agriculture organizations.**

- Invite stakeholders to participate on task force.
- Develop reporting system to ensure agriculture issues are addressed.
- Schedule meetings for the task force quarterly.
- Collaborate with organizations that require an advisory board and serve in that capacity if needed.
- Find a responsible party for the advisory board.

## Agricultural Economic Development Initiative



### COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION

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### COUNTY ACTION TEAM MEMBERS

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Doug Weisheit  
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## COUNTY STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

### HARDWOODS

**Encourage landowners with high quality hardwoods to improve timber management, marketing, and forest education.**

- Contact local forestry expert and schedule a fall '07 meeting to explore ideas and a direction for pursuing the tactics for the Hardwoods initiative.
- Schedule a meeting with local and regional sawmill owners to discuss and gain input on the Hardwoods tactics.
- Obtain funding to hire an individual, for one year, to begin work on tactics 4, 5, and 6. His/her results will be used to gauge the long-term feasibility of the tactics.
- Provide expanded education on forestry issues from Purdue Forestry / CES and P.C. Learning Center.
- Organize West Central Indiana Hardwoods Association.
- Develop use of Indiana brand hardwoods.

### DIVERSIFICATION (FOOD PROCESSING)

**Develop a support structure to create a vibrant, diverse, value-added agriculture economy in Parke County.**

- Create and distribute a survey to farmers' market vendors and customers to gain understanding of their needs, wants, etc.
- Create a clearing-house for information.
- Explore ways to promote use of Parke County produce within the county (i.e. milk for schools, vegetables for the jail, etc.).
- Start a commercial kitchen.

# Agricultural Economic Development Initiative



# Putnam

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## COUNTY STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

### BIOENERGY

**Foster an economic climate that will attract and support bioenergy businesses and ancillary opportunities.**

- Encourage curriculum to prepare potential employees.
- Create enterprise zone.
- Provide tax and other incentives.
- Promote Putnam County to industry.
- Form co-ops to identify/develop opportunities.

### HARDWOODS

**Increase educational opportunities for landowners, schools and public about the value and use of timberland.**

- Offer education programs to woodland owner groups.
- Promote sustainable yields for woodlands.
- Develop articles on timber, woodlands, saw mills, etc.
- Support Area 30 forestry/manufacturer curriculum.

**Attract value-added manufacturing that would use hardwood timber as an input.**

- Inventory resources in Putnam County to support value-added recruitment.
- Identify users/producers of wood products that fit in the area.
- Contact/recruit manufacturers to the area that use hardwood as an input.

**Attack invasive species in order to prevent adverse economic impact.**

- Create land owner and industry awareness of invasive species issue.
- Encourage forestry management plans.
- Implement an ongoing county wide eradication plan.

### LIVESTOCK INTEGRATION

**To provide the opportunity for responsible, size-neutral livestock operations to grow and succeed.**

- Education of non-farm children about benefits of livestock agriculture through ag day activities and ag in the classroom.
- Education of non-farm public about benefits of livestock agriculture through Growing IN Agriculture (GINA) and ag field days.
- Education of producers about BMPs, emerging technologies and opportunities through a brochure available at any county agribusiness or agency.
- Education of county leadership, officials and boards on economic impact (jobs, taxes, etc.) of livestock ag by telling "our story" to them.
- Provide opportunities for education and showcasing of Putnam County ag during Fair.

### REGULATORY COORDINATION

**Conserve the farmland and agriculture with zoning and regulatory standards that protect, promote, and grow agriculture within Putnam County**

- Develop network to engage more diverse agriculture representatives in comprehensive planning work.
- Encourage standards that are science-based and common sense.
- Develop rules requiring reverse screening and setbacks.
- Educate public about agriculture with a printed brochure or through developing speakers' bureau.

## *Agricultural Economic Development Initiative*



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### **COUNTY ACTION TEAM MEMBERS**

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# Sullivan

## **COUNTY STRATEGIES AND TACTICS**

### **DIVERSIFICATION**

**Develop information and links about agriculture and economic development resources for the Sullivan County web site.**

- Partner with Purdue, ISDA, USDA, SBDC, IEDC, OCRA, etc. to collect information about agriculture and economic development programs and post on Sullivan County web site.
- Develop links to program information for the Sullivan County web site.
- Build on successful Ag Day with additional education initiatives.
- Research long-range planning options and an awareness program that will impact Sullivan County economic development.

### **BIOENERGY**

**Target and recruit one or more bioenergy plant(s).**

- Identify funding for infrastructure assistance—road, water, rail spurs.
- Develop education materials about bioenergy plants and economic impact.
- Coordinate school field trips to bioenergy plants for all county sixth graders.
- Support and promote Project Learning Tree, Project Wet and Project Wild.
- Partner with Extension Homemakers to offer education opportunities to teach consumers about bioenergy options.

## ***Agricultural Economic Development Initiative***



### **COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION**

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### **COUNTY ACTION TEAM MEMBERS**

Lisa Long  
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## **COUNTY STRATEGIES AND TACTICS**

### **DIVERSIFICATION**

#### **Form a dynamic agricultural business cluster.**

- Partner with Purdue, Ivy Tech, Terre Haute Economic Development, Workforce Development Board, and FFA to identify individuals and opportunities including a host organization.
- Develop economic impact information and public relations materials for the agricultural economy in Vigo County.
- Market new Ivy Tech agricultural degrees.
- Target market for value add processing opportunities.

## Agricultural Economic Development Initiative



# Vermillion

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Carl Swinford  
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Amy Wilson

## COUNTY STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

### AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

**Develop and market a county climate that promotes local utilization of local resources (i.e. wind, water, bioenergy and wood).**

- Investigate state water laws.
- Evaluate and attract new industry while maximizing the positive impacts and minimizing the negative impacts to the county.
- Coordinate with the Agriculture Task Force to frame the redevelopment plans for the Newport Chemical Depot.

### PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE ABOUT AGRICULTURE

**Build appreciation of agriculture in the county and sell Vermillion County agriculture outside of the county.**

- Improve local coverage of agriculture and its importance to the community. (Examples: community picnics, newspaper articles, local radio spots.)
- Start FFA in the two county school systems.
- Develop a web site with a specific page touting agriculture opportunity in Vermillion County.

### REGULATORY—LAND USE AND ZONING

**Proactively address land use and zoning in Vermillion County.**

- Re-familiarize the team and county residents with current zoning ordinances.
- Research successful zoning/land use ordinances in other, similar counties.
- Hold a public forum to discuss desired changes/updates to the county ordinances. Summarize the list of changes to the ordinances and take the list to the plan commission for review.